

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising the steps of:
receiving registration information;
self-selecting a home agent in response to receiving the registration information; and
responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.
2. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information is RFC 3422 compliant information.
3. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises timestamp information.
4. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises network access identifier information.
5. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises mobile address information.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of self-selecting comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a perfect hashing algorithm.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of self-selecting comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a round robin algorithm.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of self-selecting comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a Pearson algorithm.
9. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the step of self-selecting further comprising the steps of:
 - generating a value;
 - determining that the value is within a range of numbers; and
 - performing the step of responding to the registration information in response to determining that the value is within the range of numbers.
10. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein load balancing is performed in response to performing the method of registering a mobile node.

11. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the step of self-selecting further comprising the steps of:

generating a value that falls within a range of numbers;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers performing the step of responding to the registration information.

12. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 11, wherein the value is randomly generated.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising the steps of:
receiving registration information at a home agent;
generating a value that falls within a range of numbers in response to receiving the registration information;
comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;
and
if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.
14. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a bin.
15. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the value is randomly generated.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising the steps of:
- receiving registration information at a home agent;
- identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;
- generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;
- comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and
- if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.
17. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a secondary bin.
18. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to checking a retransmission bit field.

19. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt.
20. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to identifying a number of registration attempts.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - means for receiving registration information;
 - means for self-selecting the apparatus as a home agent in response to receiving the registration information; and
 - means for responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.
22. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a home agent.
23. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.
24. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
- means for receiving registration information at a home agent;
- means for identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;
- means for generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;
- means for comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and
- if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, means for responding to the registration information.
26. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.
27. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.